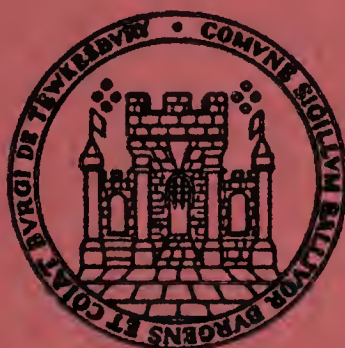


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BOROUGH OF TEWKESBURY

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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

for the Year 1956



M. L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF TEWKESBURY

To the Mayor,

Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Tewkesbury.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the Hygiene Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Borough for the year 1956.

It includes the report of the Public Health Inspector and is compiled to conform to Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and it incorporates the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 19/56 dated 11th December, 1956.

In accordance with instructions the distribution of this report is a wide one and includes:—

The Ministry of Health.

The County Medical Officer of Health.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service.

The report deals mainly with environmental conditions such as housing, water supplies, sewerage, etc., under which the population lives.

It is most satisfactory to note that the new sewage purification works are now completed.

With regard to housing, the progressive programmes of the Council in previous years have resulted in their owning more than one-third of the houses in the Borough and one dare not contemplate what the housing position would have been if it had not been for the foresight of the Council.

With regard to the more medical aspects of the report, it is satisfactory to note that the birth rate is above, and the death rate below, that for England and Wales. The infantile mortality rate of 30 is rather above the average (in Calcutta, for example, it is over 100).

With regard to infectious disease, it has been a very quiet year with the exception of tuberculosis, where the number of new cases at six was higher than for a few years.

The death rate from cancer remains very low and even cancer of the lungs is only about a quarter of that for England and Wales although I do not think there is any less smoking in the Borough.

The main part of the report deals with the work of the Public Health Inspector and is largely his work, for which, as your part-time Medical Officer, I am very grateful.

Finally, I should like to thank the Mayor and the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the consideration and support they give to recommendations of this Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

MAURICE L. SUTCLIFFE.

May, 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Dr. P. K. Holding.

Members: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Tewkesbury, Councillor W. Bettany; Aldermen S. C. J. Moulder, T. G. Bannister, F. H. Knight, G. T. Troughton; Councillors B. Sweet (Deputy Mayor), W. E. Lane, H. O. Workman, L. J. Nottingham, H. L. Creeth, C. V. Gostling, M. G. H. Cadbury, J. O. Dixon, H. A. Allen, L. G. Marston.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

M. L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Gloucester Rural and Newent Rural Joint M.O.H. Committee, and County Divisional Medical Officer of Health for No. 5 Division (Gloucester Area Health Sub-Committee).

J. B. COMPTON, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.A.
Public Health Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and Petroleum Officer.

Adoptive Legislation in force in the Borough

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75—Provision of Regulation Dustbins—adopted 21st March, 1938.

By-Laws

Tents, Vans and Sheds and similar structures—adopted 1st November, 1938.

Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air—adopted 21st April, 1952.

Building—adopted 20th April, 1953.

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the Borough with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 26.

Table 1 Infantile Births and Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Com- bin'd Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births ..	47	50	97	2	1	3	100
Still Births ..	2	2	4	—	—	—	4
Infant Deaths :							
(a) 0-4 weeks	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
(b) 4 weeks-1 yr.	1	1	2	—	—	—	2

Table 2 Deaths

Total Deaths	Male 32	Female 35	Total 67
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Table 3 Birth and Death Rates

	Borough of Tewkesbury	England and Wales
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 pop'n	18.5	} 15.7
*Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	17.2	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	40.0	23.0
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.4	} 11.7
*Corrected „ „ „ „	9.05	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births ...	30.0	23.8
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Live Births ...	30.9	} not available
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	Nil	
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total births	Nil	0.56

***Note.**—The corrected Birth and Death Rates are obtained by multiplying the Crude Rates by the factors 0.93 and 0.73 respectively. These factors are supplied by the Registrar-General and serve to make the Crude Rates for the Borough comparable with the Rates for the country as a whole.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

Area (in acres): 2,614 (including 96 acres of water).

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of Home Population, mid-1956): 5,400.

Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1956) according to rate books: 1,793.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £335 (gross).

Rateable Value: £87,005.

General Rate, 1956-57: 17s. 2d. (County precept: 11s. 10d.).

Under the Local Government Act, 1948, duties in connection with valuations were taken out of the hands of the rating authority and transferred to the Board of Inland Revenue, whose first valuation came into force on 1st April, 1956.

It will be noted that there has been a considerable increase on the rateable value of the Borough compared with 1955, when it was £32,957.

Social Conditions and Chief Industries

The Borough, although small, is of great interest both historically and architecturally. It is a staging point for tourists and is also a busy local shopping centre.

During the last few years there has been a considerable increase of industry, both in the Borough and in adjacent areas, and it appears that there is a considerable potential demand for local housing in the Borough.

The hotel and catering trade is a large employer of labour, but accurate figures are not easy to obtain as so much of the labour is seasonal and part-time.

The other main employers of labour are:—

Messrs. Dowty Group, approximately 300 employees.

Messrs. Blackwells Bearings, approximately 80 employees.

Borough Flour Mills, approximately 30 employees.

Bathursts Ltd., approximately 30 employees.

Unemployment

Miss J. Wilkinson, Manager of the local Employment Exchange, kindly supplied the following information and comments:

The general level of unemployment throughout the year again remained low, with a monthly average of 13.8 males and 2.75 females. In most cases the unemployment was of short duration.

The general employment position has been satisfactory, with a steady demand for labour.

The position differs slightly from last year, in that the demand is now almost entirely for skilled workers and greatly exceeds local supply.

The engineering industry in the area continued to expand during 1956 and workers from outside areas helped to meet the demands for labour.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

Laboratory Services

The examination of pathological specimens and analyses of samples of milk and ice cream are carried out at the laboratory of the Gloucester Royal Hospital under the Medical Research Council's Scheme. (There is no charge for this work.)

Analyses of water and sewage samples taken by this Department are carried out by the Council's Analysts, Messrs. Ellis and Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

Water analyses in respect of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board's Works are carried out by the Resident Chemist.

Hospitals

The Council have no responsibility for arranging hospital treatment, except with regard to old people in need of care and attention and dealt with under the National Assistance Acts.

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Gloucester City Isolation Hospital at Over (Gloucester, Stroud and Forest Hospital Management Committee).

Ambulance Facilities

There is one ambulance at the Ambulance Station in Mill Street, which has an establishment of three full-time drivers. In emergencies, ambulances from Cheltenham are available. The service is under the administration of the County Council. Infectious disease cases are transported by the Isolation Hospital's Ambulances.

Nursing in the Home

The two District Nurses who undertake midwifery and general nursing in the Borough and the Parishes of Ashchurch, Tredington and Twynning work under the County Health Committee, while the local Voluntary Association supervises secretarial and nurses' welfare matters.

Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

The following types of cases are assisted and the figures on 31st December, 1956, were:—

Maternity Cases ....	....	Nil
General Sickness ....	....	1
Tuberculosis ....	....	1
Chronic Sick or Old Age	....	19
		—
Total	....	21
		—

This total of 21 compares with a total of 26 in December, 1955. The scheme is very popular and it undoubtedly means that many of the cases cared for are able to remain in their homes instead of having to be sent to hospitals or institutions. This applies specially to cases of chronic sickness and old age.

There were, on 31st December, 1956, 13 part-time Home Helps in the Borough, this being a reduction of 4 on last year.

Tewkesbury Old People's Welfare Committee

I am indebted to Mrs. Wyatt, the Honorary Organising Secretary, for a very full report on the excellent work done by the voluntary committee and the following are extracts shewing the Club's activities.

"New Headquarters and Club premises at 93, Church Street, have been made available through the generosity of Sir George and Lady Dowty.

. "The Golden Hour Club. This meets fortnightly at the Watson Hall and is attended by up to 100. A lending library and thrift club are available.

"Meals on wheels. A weekly mid-day meal at a cost of 1/- is provided, but the demand is lessening.

"Chiropody Scheme. This is available to members and also any Old Age Pensioners in the Borough at a cost of 1/6d. The extra cost is paid by the Committee which gets a grant for the purpose from the Nuffield Trust. 312 treatments were carried out during the year.

"Hospital and Home visiting.

"Outings and cheap holiday schemes."

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

1. Child Welfare Centre

This Centre is under the general administration of the Area Sub-Committee of the County Council, which includes members of this Council. It is held weekly in the Town Hall and is run by a Voluntary Committee.

Progress is being made at the old Boys' Grammar School in its conversion, and it is hoped that these new premises will be available early in 1957 for the Child Welfare Centre and also for the sessions now held at the Clinic in the Municipal Offices, plus a Dental Clinic.

Table 4

No of Sessions	No of First Attendances		Total No of Attendances		
	Under 1	Over 1	Under 1	Over 1	Total
51	72	27	897	664	1660

2. Tewkesbury Clinic. Municipal Offices

This Clinic opens as follows:—

Orthopaedic Clinic: Once weekly on Tuesdays, attended by an Orthopaedic Nurse.

Ante-Natal Clinic: Weekly on Wednesday afternoons.

Speech Therapy Clinic: Twice weekly on Thursdays and Fridays.

Deaf and Dumb Clinic: Fortnightly (Monday evenings).

Tewkesbury Hospital

Ophthalmic Clinic: Monthly (first Tuesday in the month).

Orthopaedic Clinic: Monthly (second Thursday in the month).

Chest Clinic: The Chest Physician attends fortnightly or as required.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic: Held as required.

MORTUARIES

If necessary, use is made of the Tewkesbury Hospital Mortuary at a charge of £1 5s. 0d. for each case.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE BOROUGH

Water Supplies

Main Supplies

Water is supplied in bulk to the Corporation by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, whose purification works lie within the Borough.

The water is drawn from the River Severn and is purified by means of sedimentation with alum, rapid sand filtration and chlorination.

Regular chemical and bacteriological analyses are carried out and the results shown in Table 5 were supplied by the courtesy of the Resident Chemist (J. Henderson, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.).

Table 5

SUPPLY	Bacteriological Analyses		Chemical Analyses	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Raw river water	—	116	—	642
Treated river water	364	—	4268	—
Domestic	563	—	1531	—

Main Water Supplies in the Borough

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, Table 6 shows the number of houses and population served on the 31st December, 1956.

Table 6

No of houses with main supply in house. (estimated)	Pop.	No. of Houses served by stand pipes (estimated)	Pop.
1698	5121	89	267

New connexions made to public mains during the year: 56.

Extensions of mains during the year: Nil.

Other Supplies

Table 7 shows the houses in the Borough without main water.

Table 7

Address	Water Supply	No. of Houses	Population Served
I Trinity Walk ...	Well	1	2
Upper Lode Locks ...	„	1	2
Kennel's Cottage ...	„	1	—
The Mythe Hook ...	River	3	8
Total		6	12

With the exception of No. 1, Trinity Walk, where the cost of providing a piped supply is almost prohibitive, main supplies are not available. During the year main supplies were laid on at The Tollhouse, Upper Lode Locks, by the Docks and Inland Waterways Executive, and at Avon Locks Cottage by the Avon Navigation Trust.

It is satisfactory to note that only 6 out of the 1,793 houses in the Borough are without main water.

SEWERAGE

The whole of the new works were completed and full pumping and treatment was commenced in February. One or two problems have arisen, first and foremost of these is getting the sludge to dry out sufficiently so that it can be taken off the beds and stacked. This did not happen, and it meant that the sludge had to be removed in practically a liquid state, and either spread on the land direct or put into lagoons. This aspect of the works is under active consideration and a solution must be found otherwise serious trouble will occur.

The second problem is that there is some infiltration into the sewers when the river level reaches a certain point. Efforts are being made to trace the cause of this and it is hoped that before long the trouble can be considerably reduced if not eliminated altogether, but with an old sewerage system with numerous connections to the river it is not easy.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A regular weekly collection from all premises was maintained with an additional collection each week from hotels, cafes, etc. The fortnightly collection of salvage from business premises was also maintained.

REFUSE RECEPTACLES

The Council provides bins for its tenants, but many private receptacles cannot be considered satisfactory from the hygiene point of view as they are often make-shift and are not provided with proper covers to protect against flies, rats, etc.

LATRINE ACCOMMODATION

A number of the older closets in the town still have old-fashioned closets flushed by hand. The number is steadily dropping as these cottages are closed or demolished.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES

There has been no change during the year.

PUBLIC BATHS

Six slipper baths are provided by the Council in Mill Street.

SWIMMING BATH

The new swimming bath for children, at the rear of the Corporation Car Park, was commenced in October, 1955. It is hoped it will be completed early in 1957.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Severn Board is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951, and is making new bye-laws which come into force in February, 1957.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

A summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Department is tabulated below:—

Table 8

	No. of Inspections	Notices Served		Defects remed'd after Notice	
		Info'm'l	Formal	Info'm'l	Formal
Dwelling Houses ...	203	19	5	17	1
Milk and Dairies ...	14	2	—	2	—
Factories, etc. ...	26	7	—	6	—
Bakehouses ...	19	5	—	4	—
Food Premises ...	208	58	—	41	—
Slaughterhouses ...	198	—	—	—	—
Water Supplies ...	30	16	2	11	1
Drainage and Sewerage...	23	9	—	9	—
Infectious Disease ...	6	—	—	—	—
Pests ...	34	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	91	11	—	11	—
Total	852	127	7	101	2

Shops Act, 1950

The Council's part-time Inspector, whose duties are solely confined to the enforcement of the statutory hours of closing, reports that there were no contraventions during the year.

The provisions of the Act relating to the health and welfare arrangements for shop assistants are included in the executive duties of the Public Health Inspector, who made thirty-eight inspections under the Act and discovered nine infractions, all of which were subsequently put right.

Offensive Trades

No offensive trades have been established in the Borough.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One upholsterer is registered under the Act. His premises were inspected during the year and a high standard of cleanliness was recorded.

Petroleum Consolidation Acts, 1928-1936

Sixteen licences authorising the storage of petroleum spirit were granted to applicants. Twenty-one underground storage tanks were air-tested and several minor defects were made good in consequence. Every one of the storage depots was subject to an annual inspection: nowhere was there cause for complaint.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One annual licence authorising the breeding, keeping and selling of pet dogs was issued. Cause for complaint arose out of the breeder's practice of feeding his dogs with the cooked flesh of moribund animals obtained gratis locally. Follow-up action put an end to this inherently dangerous practice and resulted in the breeder giving a satisfactory assurance as to his future intentions.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953

No contraventions were observed during the year.

Canal Boats Acts and Regulations, 1877-1925

No inspections were made during the year.

Smoke Abatement

The emission of flour dust from a grinding and rolling mill gave grounds for disquiet. The "culprit" was the rotted fabric of the bag de-dusters; these were overhauled and the improvement has been gratifying.

Disinfestation (Bed Bugs, Fleas, etc.)

Five infestations were combatted with smoke generators and spray insecticides.

Camping Sites

The Council own two sites: (1) at Vineyards Park, used by campers mainly during August, with a capacity of 150 tents and provided with chemical closets, main-water standpipes and refuse receptacles; and (2) near the Municipal Car Park, with accommodation for 30 caravans and Public Baths and Conveniences near by.

A privately owned site for up to 12 caravans is also in the Borough and licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The joint service provided by a rodent operative employed by Cheltenham Rural District Council has worked smoothly and efficiently.

A summary of work performed in the Borough appears hereunder:—

Table 9

Property	Inspections	Treatments
Private Dwellings	19	14
Council Houses, Allotments, etc.	5	3
Farms	10	5
Business Premises	85	55
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	20	25
Total	139	102

As usual, pre-baiting and poisoning at selected points in the town's sewerage system was carried out with success twice during the year.

Details of Work carried out on Refuse Tips and Sewage Works

Table 10

Property	Action Taken	Result
Gander Lane Tip	Pre-baited and poisoned Eight treatments	Satisfactory
Walton Cardiff Tip	Pre-baited and poisoned Ten treatments	Satisfactory
Oldfield Tip	Pre-baited and poisoned Seven treatments.	Satisfactory
Sewage Works	Six inspections	Satisfactory

Part of the cost of this service is recovered as follows:—

Private Dwellings: A small contribution is made by the tenant and the balance is the subject of a 50% Ministerial grant.

Business Premises and Farms: The Council has a contractual obligation to effect treatment at ten of these premises. Treatment at other premises is conditional upon payment of full cost.

Council Property: Half the cost is borne by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority:

(i) Temporary prefabricated	....	Nil
(ii) Permanent non-traditional	....	Nil
(iii) Permanent traditional	....	19
(b) By other authorities	....	Nil
(c) Tewkesbury Housing Society	....	Nil
(d) Private Enterprise	....	30
Total	....	49

In comparison with the previous year, the figures shew an increase of 20 private houses erected.

Council Houses under construction on 31st December, 1956

Traditional Houses:

Oldfield Estate	12
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Programme for 1957

Development of the Canterbury Leys Site at Newtown and the erection thereon of 67 houses.

Number of Dwellings controlled or owned by the Council (up to 31st December, 1956)

(i) Under the various Housing Acts	....	642
(ii) Corporation Property	....	8
(iii) Lock-up Shops	....	9
Total	....	659

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Under Part 1 of the Act the Council submitted in August, 1955, a list of 200 houses to be dealt with; 97 in the first five years and 103 in the second five-year programme.

This is a good start, but when completed, will not mean that the remaining houses in the Borough will all be satisfactory.

Statutory Action during the year with respect to totally unfit houses

1. Housing Act, 1936, Section 11—Demolition Orders

(a) Number of demolition orders recommended	12
(b) Number of demolition orders made by Council	12
(c) Number of undertakings accepted not to use dwellings for human habitation	3
(d) Number of houses on which a demolition order was operative, but where application for re-conditioning was accepted (Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act)	Nil
(e) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal action	Nil

2. Housing Act, 1936, Section 25—Clearance Areas

(a) Number of houses demolished in Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Areas	6
(b) Clearance Orders made during the year	2
(c) Clearance Orders under consideration	Nil
(d) Compulsory Purchase Orders made during the year	Nil
(e) Compulsory Purchase Orders under consideration	Nil

3. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	8
---	---

Overcrowding

This is not now a serious matter and cases of overcrowding are very rare, owing to the increase of housing and the closing of many of the smaller houses in the town.

Clearance Areas

(i) Wilkes's Alley Clearance Order, 1956

(ii) Well Alley Clearance Order, 1956

Including seven and five houses respectively, these orders were made by the Council in April, appealed against by three of the owners and upheld at a Ministerial Inquiry or Hearing in August. Only two family tenancies were affected by the orders; both families were rehoused by the Council before the end of the year.

REPORT ON RE-HOUSING PROGRESS

by the Housing Manager

The number of dwellings completed during the year was 19; as against 59 in 1955. These and other vacations enabled 35 families to be rehoused; included in this number were 13 families living in condemned property. In addition, 34 transfers of accommodation were made.

The efforts to transfer tenants from under-occupied property to that more suited to their needs met with greater success following rent adjustments in October. This, coupled with the larger proportion of smaller dwellings completed should, in time, materially reduce under occupation of Council property.

An analysis of the housing waiting list is given below and this shows a slight reduction over the previous year.

O.A.P.'s	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed +	Total
28	74	77	57	9	245
11%	30%	32%	23%	4%	100%

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ministry of Health Circular 19/56 requests that the Annual Report of the Public Health Department should include certain details about food premises in the Borough. Table 11 gives these details.

Table 11

Type of Business	Total No.	No of Insp-ect's	No. Reg. S16 F. & D. Act 1955
Cafes and Canteens	18	29	17
Grocery and Provision Shops include sweets and chemists.	52	47	—
Ice Cream Vendors	33	41	33
Butchers' Shops	9	36	8
Fishmongers include fried & wet fish	4	18	2
Bakehouses	5	19	—
L i c e n s e d Premises and Hotels	26	37	—
Dairies	1	—	—
Totals	148	227	60

The County Public Health Inspectors make regular visits to the dairy, whereas the bakehouses, being "factories", are also inspected by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

MILK SUPPLIES

Supervision of the production of milk at dairy farms is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Licensing of the local pasteurising plant and the methods of heat-treatment carried out therein come within the jurisdiction of the County Council.

The Council's powers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations for halting the spread of milk-borne disease were not invoked during the year. Some credit for this must doubtlessly be attributed to the prohibition of the sale of non-designated raw milks by the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1954.

Tables 12, 13 and 14 give details of the number of licensed dealers, registered distributors and retail milk samples.

Table 12 Issue of Licences for Milk Dealers

<i>Classification of Milk</i>	<i>Dealers' Licences</i>		<i>Supplementary Licences</i>		
Tuberculin Tested...	...	13	...	...	—
Pasteurised	13	...	...	—
Sterilised	—	—

Table 13 Milk Registrations

No. of Milk Distributors Registered	...	...	...	...	14
No. of Dairy Premises Registered	...	...	...	...	1

Table 14 Retail Milk Sampling

<i>Nature of Test</i>	<i>Results of Tests</i>	
	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Methylene Blue (keeping quality) ...	20	...
Biological (presence of T.B., B.Abortus, etc.)	2	...
Phosphatase (efficiency of pasteurisation)	18	...

As the last table indicates, the local milk supply may be considered to be in safe hands.

Meat and Other Foods

The one privately-owned slaughterhouse licensed by the Council has been much used throughout the year. Although evening slaughtering was commonplace it has again been possible to achieve a 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered.

Three slaughtermen's licences were granted during the year.

Table 15 Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats	Horses	Total
Number killed (if known)	248	48	86	953	542	1	—	1878
Number inspected	248	48	86	953	542	1	—	1878
All diseases except Tuberculosis and cysticerci ...								
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	59	21	3	30	23	—	—	136
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	23.8	43.8	3.5	3.2	4.2	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	8	—	—	15	—	—	41
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.3	16.7	—	—	2.8	—	—	—
Cysticercosis : Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for:—	lbs.
(i) All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	580
(ii) Tuberculosis	372
(iii) Cysticercosis	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Notification is made to this Department when hotels, shops or individuals have any food which is suspected of being unsound. The following table shows the foodstuffs examined and declared unfit for human consumption.

Table 16

Article	Non Preserved	Preserved (tinned)
Meat	425 lbs.	114 lbs.
Milk and Cream	— „	9 „
Fish and Fish Cakes	42 „	3 „
Fruits (various)... ..	— „	66 „
Vegetables (various)	— „	24 „
Miscellaneous	—	15 „

Total weight of foodstuffs: approximately $6\frac{1}{4}$ cwts.

The small amount of foodstuffs condemned is very satisfactory. Meat condemned at the local slaughterhouse, details of which are given on page 19, is not included in the foregoing.

Ice Cream

There are 33 registered vendors of ice cream in the Borough, of which three manufacture their own. Most of the ice cream is of the pre-packed variety, purchased wholesale from manufacturers outside the district.

Twenty-four samples of ice cream were procured from vendors to determine the standard of cleanliness. The results are shown hereunder.

Table 17

Type of Ice Cream	Grade				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Complete Cold Mix (Unwrapped)	1	3	1	—	5
Heat Treated (within the Borough) „	—	—	—	—	—
Heat Treated (outside the Borough) „ (Unwrapped)	1	3	—	—	4
Heat Treated (outside the Borough) (Wrapped)	15	—	—	—	15
Totals	17	6	1	—	24

Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory, so that the standard generally may be regarded as praiseworthy.

Adulteration

Sampling food and drugs for the detection of adulteration, abstractions, substitutions and false descriptions, and for the checking of compositional standards and quality, is undertaken by the County Council's Sampling Officers.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

Coming into force in their entirety during the year, the Regulations have a wide application, for their provisions and scope extend to any business or undertaking in which food is sold or supplied for human consumption whether run for profit or not.

Briefly, they require a high standard of cleanliness and hygiene with regard to personnel, storage and cooking of food, premises and apparatus.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Table 18 Inspections for the provisions as to health

Premises	No. of Premises in Registr	No. of Inspect'ns	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecut'd
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	22	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excl. outworkers)	6	1	—	—
Total	51	26	6	—

Table 19 Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of Defects Found	No. of Defects Remedied	No. of Defects Referred to by H.M.I H.M.I.		No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness Sec. 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding Sec. 2 ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. Sec. 3	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation Sec. 4	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffect. drain. of floors Sec 6	—	—	—	—	—
Latrines. Sec. 7					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not inc. Homework)	4	2	—	—	—
Total ..	10	8	—	1	—

Table 20 Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in Aug. list as required	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	Cases of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices Served	Prosecu- tions
Wearing Apparel (making)	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table 25 shews the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases by age groups.

The total number was only 19, compared with 259 in 1955, and is the lowest since the present list of infectious diseases became notifiable.

Diphtheria

This Council started a diphtheria immunisation scheme for the Borough in 1937, and in 1940 responsibility for the scheme was taken over by the County, when it was officially recommended by the Ministry of Health.

The effect of immunisation in almost eradicating this dangerous disease is little less than miraculous, but continued immunisation is still necessary. There have been no cases of diphtheria in the Borough since 1946.

Whooping Cough

Immunisation is carried out by a County Scheme started in 1955.

Polio (Acute Poliomyelitis)

Early in 1956 the Ministry of Health said vaccine would shortly be available, and a scheme was immediately formulated by the County. Owing to shortage of vaccine in the County, immunisation was only offered to children born in the years 1947-54 and of these only a small percentage could be done, as the months of July—October were considered a “close season”, owing to the usual prevalence of polio during them.

The vaccine is produced by utilising the kidneys of healthy monkeys which come mostly from India, and one monkey produces sufficient vaccine to immunise about 300 children. A drawback at present to the vaccine is that it has to be kept at only just above freezing point until within a few hours of use, and this causes practical difficulties with regard to storage and distribution.

There were no cases of polio during the year.

Small Pox and Typhoid

There were no small pox or typhoid contacts notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

There were no cases during the year.

Infectious Disease in Schools

Table 21 shews the incidence of infectious disease according to weekly returns submitted during term-time by Head Teachers.

The figures cannot be considered absolutely accurate as many cases are reported on hearsay. The table is of interest as it shews the incidence of chicken pox and mumps, which are not notified by General Practitioners.

Table 21

School	Average No. on Register	Sc. F.	Measles	Wh. C.	Ch. Pox	Mumps	Flu
Trinity Walk (C. of E. Inf.)	140	1	1	—	66	—	1
Barton Rd. (County Jun.)	218	—	—	—	8	—	—
Oldbury Rd. (C. of E. Jun.)	132	—	—	—	2	—	—
Queen Margaret's (County Primary)	269	—	—	2	—	—	—
Chance St. (Sec. Modern)	443	1	1	2	—	—	—
Southwick Park (Grammar)	153	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church St. (Girls' High)	175	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1530	2	2	4	76	—	1

The new Queen Margaret's County Primary School was opened in September, 1956.

It was not considered necessary to close any schools because of infectious disease and in accordance with the recommendation of the Joint Memorandum issued by the Ministries of Health and Education.

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis has become a much less serious and fatal disease in the last few years. The improvement in the position is due to a number of factors; for instance, earlier diagnosis (mass radiography), new drugs and improved surgical treatment, and last, but certainly not least, better living conditions of the population, in which better housing and less poverty play a large part. However, tuberculosis is still a very serious disease because of the invalidity it causes, with sufferers being unable to lead a normal life for perhaps years.

Table 22 This Table shews the new cases, in-transfers and deaths from tuberculosis for the last 22 years

Year	Pop. of Borough	New and I.T. Cases	Per 1000 Pop.	Deaths	Per 1000 Pop.	No. on Reg'ter	Per 1000 Pop.
1935	4537	4	0.88	5	1.1	30	6.6
1936	4441	5	1.12	5	1.12	30	6.72
1937	4357	4	0.91	4	0.91	26	5.9
1938	4334	11	2.53	4	0.92	25	5.7
1939	} No Annual Reports or figures available						
1940							
1941							
1942	4830	8	1.65	1	0.20	40	8.3
1943	4589	3	0.65	2	0.43	43	9.4
1944	4431	9	2.03	3	0.68	51	11.5
1945	4401	8	1.81	3	0.68	40	9.1
1946	4540	5	1.10	1	0.22	36	7.9
1947	4614	6	1.29	4	0.86	36	7.8
1948	4856	6	1.24	1	0.20	33	6.8
1949	5111	6	1.17	1	0.19	34	6.6
1950	5247	2	0.38	1	0.19	32	6.1
1951	5233	10	1.90	—	—	36	6.8
1952	5446	11	2.02	1	0.18	39	7.1
1953	5408	7	1.29	—	—	43	7.9
1954	5410	4	0.74	—	—	41	7.6
1955	5380	4	0.74	1	0.18	39	7.2
1956	5400	9	1.67	1	0.18	42	7.8

The death rate in 1956 from tuberculosis in England and Wales was 0.121 per 1,000 population.

Table 23 New, In-Transfer Cases, Deaths and Number on Register on 31st December, 1956

	Respiratory		Meninges and C.N.S.		Other Forms		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
New Cases	2	3	—	—	1	—	6
In - Transfer Cases	1	2	—	—	—	—	3
Deaths	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Number re- maining on Register on 31st Decem- ber, 1956 ..	20	21	—	—	1	—	42

Re-Housing of Tuberculosis Cases

As good housing is one of the essentials in the cure and prevention of tuberculosis, cases where this is unsatisfactory are reported to the Housing Committee, who are most co-operative, and, as a result, of the 42 cases in the Borough, 23 are living in Council houses.

Tuberculosis After-Care

A joint committee serves this Borough and the Rural Districts of Gloucester and Newent. Except for a grant for stationery, postage, etc., it is entirely dependent on voluntary subscriptions, of which every penny goes to assist tuberculosis cases. The Rural District of Gloucester has recommended to the County Council that financial assistance should be given to the Committee from the charity proceeds from the recent Sunday opening of a cinema in their District. This will be of great assistance to the funds.

CANCER

The following mortality figures are of interest and shew that the death rate in the Borough is well below that for England and Wales.

Table 24 Death rates from Cancer per 1,000 population

	England and Wales		Tewkesbury Borough	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of the Lung, etc.	0.726	0.11	0.18	Nil
Other Cancer	1.55	1.78	Nil	0.74

Table 25 Notification of Infectious Diseases in 1956 by Age Groups

	Age										Total
	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	N.K.	
Scarlet Fever	1	2	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	6
Whooping Cough	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Measles (excl. G.M.)
Ac. Polio-myelitis (P)
Ac. Polio-myelitis (N.P.)
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	2	..	..	..	5
Tuberculosis (Meninges)
Tuberculosis (other)	1	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria
Small Pox
Meningococcal Infection
Ac. Encephalitis (Inf.)
Ac. Encephalitis (Post Inf.)
Dysentery
Ophthal. Neonatorum
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	1
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. or Flu)
Paratyphoid Fever
Enteric Fever...
Food Poisoning
Erysipelas
Malaria (contr. E.W.)
Total	4	3	2	2	..	5	3	..	..	..	19

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1956

Table 26 gives the causes of death in the Borough in accordance with the abbreviated list of 36 groups of the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948.

Table 26

Causes of Death				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	...
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...
7.	Acute Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1	...
10.	* Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	1	...
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	4	3
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	4	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	8	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	3	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	...
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	...
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	...
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	3	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	...
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	...
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...
Total				32	35

Explanatory Note: *Neoplasm = Cancer.

